

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 /090 W

----- 006081

R 220957Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2298

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LA UR US CH

SUBJECT: CALL BY SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY LAPCHINE

1. SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY M.G. LAPCHINE,
WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES APPARENTLY INCLUDE CONTACT WITH
THE U.S. EMBASSY, CALLED ON ME FOR THE FIRST TIME
SEPTEMBER 22.

2. LPACHINE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING TO
WATCH CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE POST-MAO PERIOD.
IN THIS CONNECTION HE ASKED ME IF I COULD GET HIM A
COPY OF A BOOK CALLED "THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN LAOS"
PUBLISH BY THE RAND CORPORATION THE 1960'S. HE
DESCRIBED IT AS A ONE VOLUME WORK, ABOUT 80 OR 90 PAGES
IN LENGTH, DEALING WITH HISTORICAL, ETHNIC AND
SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE CHINESE IN LAOS.

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3. LAPCHINE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT WAS GOING TO

HAPPEN IN CHINA NOW. I DISCLAIMED ANY CHINESE EXPERTISE AND SAID I REALLY HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AND MR. BUSH'S RECENT TELEVISION INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST BY VOA.

4. LAPCHINE SAID THE RUSSIANS THOUGHT THAT A GROUP OF LEFTISTS, INCLUDING MAO'S WIDOW, WERE VERY ACTIVE AT THE MOMENT BUT THAT THEIR POSITION WAS BY NO MEANS SECURE. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE CHINESE REGIME AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH "SOCIALIST" IN A ECONOMIC SENSE, WAS NOT "SOCIALIST" IN A POLITICAL SENSE. HE SAID THE SOVIETS FELT THAT MAO HAD BEEN OUT OF ACTION FOR HEALTH REASONS FOR SOME TIME BEFORE HIS DEATH AND THAT A NUMBER OF DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE, NOTABLY THE ONE TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA, WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO MAO.

5. LAPCHINE SAID THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY HERE BUT THAT AMBASSADOR VDOVINE AND A COUPLE OF HIS STAFF HAD GONE AHEAD AND SIGNED IT ANYWAY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN LOCATE A COPY OF THE RAND STUDY LAPCHINE REQUESTED AND IF IT IS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY TO PASS TO HIM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL LEADERS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
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Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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